

If you want to become a skilled worker (and only you can decide that), here is a way that you can get started NOW toward that goal. It's called the Linkage project – in-school skill training in a number of specified occupations. With Linkage, some technical courses you complete successfully in secondary school will allow you to omit a portion of the similar training at a community college. So, you can see that Linkage provides an opportunity for you to shorten the apprenticeship training period. But let's go back and look at an example of how the apprenticeship system usually works.

Back in 1976, John decided to become a machinist, after he graduated from high school. After he found a company which would train him, he became an apprentice machinist. He'd learned a lot about machine shop in high school, but he had to go back to community college for *three* terms – Basic, Intermediate and Advanced – each two months long.

After he finished his period of apprenticeship, including the three terms at community college, he became a fully qualified machinist. He's earning about \$18,000 now.

Here's an example of how Linkage works:

Mary has decided to become a machinist too; but she had an edge. Her high school is involved in Linkage. She's taking a double-period machine shop program in grade 11 and will again in grade 12. After she graduates, she'll find an employer willing to train her; then, she'll register as an apprentice. But ... she'll omit the Basic term at the community college. She has a Student Training Record Book from high school; it proves that she doesn't have to take the Basic term. She'll only have to complete the on-the-job training and *two* terms at the college – Intermediate and Advanced. So you can see how Linkage shortens the apprenticeship period.

It means

- she won't have to go to college for the Basic term; she'll continue to work for pay during the two months, instead of receiving just a training allowance.
- she won't have to repeat what she learned in high school.
- she'll receive her Certificate of Qualification as a general machinist two months earlier. Three years after she graduates from high school and successfully completes a qualifying exam she'll be a fully qualified machinist with a skill.

But don't forget ... the Linkage program also counts towards your Grade 12 Graduation Diploma. When you're taking a Linkage program, you're getting two things at the same time – credits towards your Graduation Diploma and credits towards qualification in a skilled occupation.

There are nine Linkage occupations. The length of the training period – both on-the-job and at the community college depends on the occupation. For every Linkage occupation, there is a Student Training Record Book, which lists everything you've learned in that trade. Here are the nine occupations: motor vehicle mechanic, general machinist, industrial millwright, construction millwright, cook, baker, hairstylist, retail meat cutter, major appliance service technician.

Except for major appliance service technician, all are apprentice programs.

Other occupations will be added soon; your guidance counsellor or technical director will have information on the new Linkage occupations.

You may not be quite ready to decide what you want to be. That's OK. The skilled occupations may be right for you. Maybe not. But you'll never know until you ask. So talk to your guidance counsellor and your technical director. Ask them about Linkage and careers in the skilled occupations. Do it now.

Here's a summary of the nine Linkage occupations to help you with your decision.

**Motor Vehicle Mechanic:** Disassembles, adjusts, repairs and reassembles engines, transmissions, clutches, rear ends, differentials, brakes, drive shafts, axles and other assemblies; tests for and corrects faulty alignment of wheels and steering mechanisms, manual or power; repairs or replaces suspension systems including shock absorbers and spring assemblies; installs, repairs and removes ignition systems, generators, alternators, starters, coils, panel instruments, wiring and other electrical systems and equipment; repairs and adjusts fuel systems; performs complete engine tune-ups; installs, inspects, maintains and removes motor vehicle air-conditioning and refrigeration systems.

**General Machinist:** Sets up and operates various types of precision metal cutting and grinding machines to close tolerances; has a broad understanding of metallurgy, is familiar with the use and care of precision measuring equipment, has a detailed knowledge of blueprint reading.

**Industrial Millwright:** Installs, repairs and maintains mechanical machines, their components, related pneumatic and hydraulic systems in industrial plants or specific process areas; has a broad knowledge of metallurgy, welding, blueprint reading and use of precision measuring instruments.

**Construction Millwright:** Installs, repairs and maintains mechanical machines, their components, related devices and systems in industrial plants, commercial and institutional buildings, or construction sites; has a broad knowledge of metallurgy, welding, blueprint reading and use of precision measuring instruments.

**Cook:** Assembles and prepares complete meals, short order grills, hot and cold buffets, salads and dressings, desserts and non-alcoholic beverages; carves cooked meats, poultry, fish and game; has a working knowledge of table service, soups and sauces, weights and measures, hygiene, equipment handling, sanitation and safety; has a detailed knowledge of stock control, receiving, issuing, menu planning, food costing and purchasing.



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**Baker:** Prepares ingredients, straight dough, different types of fermented goods, sweet and puff paste goods, tea biscuits and doughnuts, flour and sugar, cocoa and chocolate, puddings and desserts, pastry and chaux paste, bread and rolls, pies, cookies, muffins, icings and fillings, cakes and creams; supervises bakery formulation, fermentation, stock control, receiving and issuing, product costing, ingredient and material purchasing, decorating and specialty work; has knowledge of sanitation and safety equipment.

**Hairstylist:** Tints, bleaches or dyes hair; shampoos hair and scalp; gives hair and scalp treatments; cleans or dresses artificial hair pieces; cuts and trims hair; curls or waves hair by any means; combs or brushes hair; shapes, colours or treats eyebrows or eyelashes; and performs any other operation with respect to dressing hair to obtain an intended effect or according to a particular style. In addition, barber shaves or trims beards or moustaches; hairdresser gives facials, manicures and applies make-up; hairstylist performs all of the above.

**Retail Meat Cutter:** Bones and trims various types of meat carcasses, i.e., veal, beef, lamb and pork, into marketable retail cuts; may make various types of sausages and prepare special meats and fancy meat products; may also carry out poultry and fish preparation.

**Major Appliance Service Technician:** Maintains and repairs major appliances, such as refrigerators, electric ranges, microwave ovens, and automatic washers, requires a knowledge of blueprint reading, electrical principles and single-phase motors, as well as specialized knowledge of 16 appliance types.

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